



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - September 29, 2003**

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather is promoting fieldwork, including ***Northwestern*** winter wheat planting, but drought-stressed rangelands and low reservoir levels remain a concern in the ***Southwest, Great Basin, and Intermountain West***.
- ***On the Plains***, cool weather and limited soil moisture reserves are slowing winter wheat emergence across the ***northern portions of the region***, where widespread frosts and freezes were reported this morning. Farther south, warm weather on the ***southern Plains*** favors summer crop maturation, while isolated showers and thunderstorms are causing insignificant fieldwork delays.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, widespread frosts and freezes were observed this morning from the ***Mississippi Valley westward***, but nearly all of the corn crop is mature enough to withstand the cold weather. Only a few late-developing soybean fields in the ***western Corn Belt*** are not yet turning color and thus susceptible to sub-freezing (below 32 degrees F) readings.
- ***In the South***, showers are confined to ***Florida's peninsula***. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather favors fieldwork and summer crop maturation.

**Outlook:** A strong ridge of high pressure will provide warm, mostly dry weather for the remainder of the week from the ***Rockies westward to the Pacific Coast***. Farther east, however, a pronounced trough, or southward dip in the jet stream, will maintain below-normal temperatures from the ***Plains to the Atlantic Coast***, while an upper-air disturbance may spark rain on portions of the ***Plains***. Elsewhere, a series of weak disturbances will trigger occasional showers in the ***Great Lakes States***, while a stalled frontal boundary will provide the focus for locally heavy rain in ***Florida***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 4-8 calls for above-normal rainfall across the ***southern Plains, Delta, and Tennessee Valley***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***Midwestern, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern States***. Above-normal temperatures are likely from the ***Rockies westward to the Pacific Coast***, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>